

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 CPR-02 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 SS-15

USIA-12 PRS-01 NASA-04 RSR-01 /072 W

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R 091915Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5917

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 958

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TSPA BB

SUBJ: APOLLO 17 LUNAR SAMPLE PRESENTATION, 4 JULY

REFS: A) STATE 110770, B) STATE 129078

1. AMB PRESENTED PLAQUE WITH LUNAR SAMPLE AND BARBADOS FLAG DURING CEREMONY JULY 4 TO ACTING PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS GEORGE FERGUSON IN PRESENCE OF GOVERNOR GENERAL AND LADY SCOTT, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, MINISTER OF HEALTH, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION PARTY, AND OTHER PARLIAMENTARIANS, PLUS WIVES OF PRIME MINISTER AND FONMIN (WHO BOTH AWAY), ENTIRE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. NAVAL FACILITY, PEACE CORPS, AND THREE U.S. ORGANIZATIONS HERE. APOLLO PROGRAM WAS THEME THIS YEAR OF EMBASSY'S JULY 4 RECEPTION HELD AT NOON AT CHANCERY RATHER THAN, AS TRADITIONALLY, DURING THE EVENING AT RESIDENCE. BARBADIAN TEEN-AGER ROBERT ALLAN CARTER, WHO PARTICIPATED IN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE TOUR, WAS DESIGNATED "HONORARY CUSTODIAN" AND HELD PLAQUE DURING AMBASSADOR'S PRESENTATION REMARKS (DRAWING ON MATERIAL IN REF. B), FOLLOWING WHICH SHE TRANSFERRED PLAQUE TO ACTING PRIME MINISTER (FOR PEOPLE OF BARBADOS) WHO GAVE EXCELLENT PREPARED

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RESPONSE.

2. ENTIRE EVENT HAD EXCELLENT MEDIA COVERAGE BEGINNING WITH 15 MIN TALK ON CBC RADIO BY AMB., WHO COMBINED HISTORICAL EVENTS LEADING TO OUR INDEPENDENCE WITH CONCLUSION OF APOLLO PROGRAM, ETC. TIMING AT 9:30 A.M. JULY 4, WHILE HUNDREDS WERE AWAITING DELAYED BROADCAST OF "TREATY OF CHAGAUAMAS" FROM TRINIDAD, MEANT UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF LISTENERS. PHOTOGRAPHS OF PRESENTATION APPEARED IN "ADVOCATE-NEWS" (BARBADOS DAILY NEWSPAPER) ON TWO SUCCESSIVE DAYS, JULY 5 AND 6. TV COVERAGE OF CEREMONY CARRIED ON NEWS PROGRAM EVENING JULY 4.

3. DIPLOMATIC NOTE FROM FONOFF DATED JULY 5 IN RESPONSE TO OUR NOTE OF JUNE 28 STATE THAT EMBASSY "WOULD BE NOTIFIED IN DUE COURSE OF ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY GOB FOR PERMANENT PLACEMENT OF LUNAR SAMPLE." INFORMAL INDICATIONS ARE THAT IT WILL BE INSTALLED AT THE BARBADOS MUSEUM, POSSIBLY FOLLOWING TEMPORARY DISPLAY AT TREASURY BUILDING. UNTIL APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS FINALIZED BY GOB PLAQUE BEING RETAINED AT EMBASSY FOR SAFEKEEPING AND PROTECTION. WHEN FINAL DEPOSITORY DETERMINED, POST WILL FORWARD NEWSCLIPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS, UNDER COVER OF AIRGRAM. IT IS CLEAR THAT INTEREST IN LUNAR PROGRAM REMAINS HIGH HERE. PLAQUE PRESENTATION FOLLOWED LOCAL TV VIEWING OF APOLLO 17 FILM SUPPLIED BY USIA ON JUNE 4. THERE WAS UNANIMOUS EXPRESSION OF DELIGHT WITH BEQUEST OF THE PLAQUE AND ITS RETENTION IN BARBADOS.
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